Rockwall
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT







ROCKWALL ISD
MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC PLANNING
2025-2026

Revised: January 29, 2025

Table of Contents

Middle School Campuses **3**
Welcome to Your Middle School **4**
6th through 10th Recommended Grade Course Sequence **9**
6th Grade Sample Schedule **16**
7th and 8th Grade Sample Schedules **16**
Student Worksheet for Three-Year Plan **17**
6th Grade Curriculum Content **18**
6th Grade English 18
6th Grade Social Studies 18
6th Grade Science 18
6th Grade Math 19
6th Grade Fine Arts 19
6th Grade Physical Education 20
7th Grade Curriculum Content **21**
7th Grade English 21
7th Grade Social Studies 21
7th Grade Science 22
7th Grade Math 22
7th Grade Physical Education (PE) 23
7th Grade Boy's Athletics 23
7th Grade Girl's Athletics 24
7th Grade Electives 24
7th Grade Fine Arts 26
8th Grade Curriculum Content **28**
8th Grade English 28
8th Grade Social Studies 28
8th Grade Science 28
8th Grade Math 29
8th Grade Physical Education (PE) 30
8th Grade Boy's Athletics 31
8th Grade Girl's Athletics 31
8th Grade Electives 32
8th Grade Fine Arts 34
8th Grade Courses for Which Students May Earn High School Credit **36**
Planning Your High School Program **37**
College, Career, & Military Readiness **38**
9th Grade Checklist **38**
Rockwall ISD Graduation Plan **39**
Glossary of High School Terms **40**
Rockwall ISD Endorsements **41**
Middle School Students Preparing for College and Careers **42**

Middle School Campuses

Maurine Cain Middle School
6620 FM 3097
Rockwall, TX 75032
972-772-1170
Principal: Brittney Zabojnik
Counselors:

Last Name A-K
Taryn Wright
taryn.wright@rockwallisd.org

Last Name L-Z
Ashley McCoy
ashley.mccoy@rockwallisd.org

Herman E. Utley Middle School
1201 T.L. Townsend
Rockwall, TX 75087
972-771-5281
Principal: Ms. Kristin Marceau
Counselors:

Last Name A-K
Tamesha Nickles
tamesha.nickles@rockwallisd.org

Last Name L-Z
Maria Carroll
maria.carroll@rockwallisd.org

J.W. Williams Middle School
625 East FM 552
Rockwall, TX 75087
972-771-8313
Principal: Dr. Christina Bradford
Counselors:

Last Name A-K
Jennifer Givens
jennifer.givens@rockwallisd.org

Last Name L-Z
Rebecca Wimpee
rebecca.wimpee@rockwallisd.org

Middle School 4
4700 Gettysburg Boulevard
Fate, TX 75032
972-***-****
Principal: Jacob Payne
Counselors: (TBD)

Last Name A-K

Last Name L-Z

Welcome to Your Middle School

Different Classes
In middle school, you will switch classrooms for each subject. One of the first things you will learn is where all of your classes are and how long you have to get there during passing periods. Finding your classes is not hardto do. It just takes a little time to learn and, before you know it, you will be an "expert" in no time at all. The teachers, counselors, and administrators will help you as you learn your way around the building.

Homework
You may have more homework in middle school than you did in elementary school. It is important to stay organized and make sure you have plenty of time to get the work done.

Lunch
Outside food and drinks are not permitted during lunch. Be sure to bring your lunch with you each day, if youare not getting your food from the cafeteria.

Tips for Academic Success-

- Use a 3-ring binder notebook and dividers to organize your class information for each subject. Each section should be labeled with the subject and the teacher's name. This will help keep the informationfor each class organized and easy to locate.
- Use an academic planner or agenda. Take it to class each day and always write down your assignmentsand due dates. Check your academic planner or agenda when you get home to make sure all of your assignments have been completed.
- Ask questions! If you don't understand an assignment in school, you will likely struggle to work on it at home as well. Usually, if you don't understand, there are probably other students who feel the same way.
- Plan homework time every day. There will be something for you to finish, study, or look over almost every day, so have a set time in your daily schedule for doing homework. During this time, you should:
    - Find a quiet place to work.
    - Gather any supplies you need before you start working.
    - Ask family members not to disturb you. Don't take calls from friends during this study time.
    - Check your backpack or notebook each night before you go to bed! Make sure you have all your homework assignments and any supplies you might need for the next day.

Responsibility
As a middle school student, you will need to accept more responsibility in all aspects of your education.

- If you are absent, it will be up to you to ask your teachers for information and assignments you missed
- while you were gone.
- If you need tutoring, it will be up to you to make arrangements with your teachers and parents. Tutoringhours are listed on teacher websites.
- It will be up to you to make sure your assignments are turned in on time.
- Attendance is taken every period (9 times per day). It is your responsibility to get to every class ontime. You will have approximately 4 minutes between each class, so time management is necessary.

Student Activities
Middle school offers students the opportunity to participate in various organizations, clubs, and activities. Through these different activities, you have the chance to find new interests, develop talents, and build strong friendships. When you begin choosing activities, it is important to weigh all options and be selective about the choices you make. Achieving a balance between academic demands and extracurricular opportunitieswill make your middle school years rewarding. Also, remember that participation in school clubs and organizations is a privilege, not a right. Make good behavioral choices, do your work, and attend school every day. Doing so will allow you to participate fully in these activities.

Intervention
In addition to the traditional courses that are outlined in this guide, each middle school campus has a class time built into each day designed to assist students in navigating a successful academic pathway.
This class time is embedded in the school day to provide intervention, enrichment, and social-emotional instruction. The purpose for this support period is to provide students with time to access necessary resources within the school day. A student is assigned to a particular classroom via one of two options:

- Campus teacher teams identify areas of growth for students and assign services that fit the needs of each student.
- With teacher permission, a student can request to attend tutoring, retesting, or other types of intervention during this class period.

Attendance is taken during this support period as with each period of the day.

General Curriculum - Promotion
The Student Success Initiative (SSI) grade advancement requirements apply to students who take the STAAR reading and math tests at grades 5 and 8. As specified by these requirements, a student may advance to the next grade level only by passing these tests or by unanimous decision of his or her Grade Placement Committee (GPC). The GPC must determine that the student is likely to perform at grade level after additional instruction. Students in grades 5-8 have three opportunities to pass the STAAR reading and math tests. If a student does notpass one or both tests, the school must give the student additional instruction after each testing opportunity and, the student must participate in the instruction. If a student does not demonstrate proficiency on these assessments, the student may advance to or be placed in the next grade only if (1) he or she completes all accelerated instruction required by the GPC, and (2) the GPC determines, by unanimous decision, that the student is likely to perform on grade level by the end of the next school year given additional accelerated instruction during the course of the year. In making promotion decisions, the GPC is required to consider the recommendation of the student's teacher, the student's grades, the student's state assessment scores, and any other relevant academic information.

Schedule Changes
One of the most critical functions performed by a school is the preregistration of students. Based upon preregistration information, courses are scheduled and teachers are employed for the next school year. Schedule changes are made under the conditions listed below:

- A change is needed as a result of summer school
- A change is needed to balance classes within the master schedule
- A change resulting in the revision of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) by an Admission, Review, and Dismissal Committee (ARD)

Gifted and Talented (GT) – SAGE (Selected Academically Gauged Education)
Rockwall ISD recognizes that students identified as gifted and talented benefit from instruction that develops and challenges their unique academic and social/emotional needs. Students identified as gifted and talented are served through middle school honors classes in the core content areas of English, Science, Social Studies, and Math. These courses are taught by teachers trained to differentiate their instruction to meet GT students' needs. SAGE services follow the same scope and sequence as Honor's classes. In addition, GT students identified as gifted and talented in language arts will be served through SAGE English 6 Honors, SAGE English 7 Honors, and SAGE English 8 Honors. GT students identified as gifted and talented in science will be served through SAGE Science 6 Honors, SAGE Science 7 Honors, and SAGE IPC Honors. Students must qualify for SAGE services to be placed in the classes. For additional information, please contact Jennifer Leal, Rockwall ISD's Gifted and Talented Coordinator, or visit the Rockwall ISD Gifted and Talented/SAGE website.

Acceleration via Credit by Examination
Students may request to take an examination for acceleration in academic subjects. The exams are scheduled at specific times each year. To receive credit, the student must score 80 or above. See Policy EHDC(Local) for more information.

Advanced Academics (Honors Coursework)
Per the December 14, 2020, Board Meeting, Trustees approved the change of all Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) courses to the title Honors courses, per the change required by the College Board for all districts that offer Pre-AP courses. Rockwall ISD recognizes that in order for students to perform at high levels in advanced academic courses in high school, students will need to develop the skills and habits of mind to do so beginningin the 7th and 8th grades. Honors courses are offered in Rockwall ISD middle schools in English, science, social studies, and math as part of an advanced academic pathway to Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or dual credit/dual enrollment courses in which students can earn college credit while in high school. Students may select honors courses if they meet the required course prerequisites. Parents must sign an acknowledgment of understanding before enrolling in all honors courses. Middle school counselors and teachers can provide additional information regarding the academic challenges of honors courses in middle school.
Successful advanced academic students typically exhibit the following attributes:

- Self-directed learners
- Task and goal-oriented
- Exhibit above-average reading skills
- Exhibit above-average writing skills
- Exhibit problem-solving skills
- Can analyze and synthesize information from a variety of sources
- Manage their time effectively

International Baccalaureate (IB)
Rockwall ISD offers International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme courses for qualified students in the 11th and 12th grades. These courses provide a unique academic experience with an emphasis on experiencing academic work from a global and interconnected perspective. IB also provides students the opportunity to earncollege credits and the prestigious IB Diploma in addition to their Rockwall ISD high school diploma. In orderto best prepare themselves for this challenge, enrollment in Algebra I and Spanish is strongly recommended while in middle school. For a more detailed look at the IB Diploma Programme, please visit the Rockwall ISDInternational Baccalaureate webpage or contact your counselor.

Fine Arts
The Texas Education Agency requires all students in grades 6th through 8th to complete one full year of a TEKS-based fine arts course (19 TAC 74.3(a)(2). Rockwall ISD chooses to fulfill this requirement in the 6th grade. This allows 6th grade to be the entry point to many of our fine arts programs, such as visual art, band, choir, orchestra, and theater. The Texas Education Agency also requires high school students to complete on full credit (one year) of a TEKS-based fine arts course for graduation (19 TAC 74.3(b)(1). Due to the high demand of the limited entry level fine arts courses in high school, it is recommended that students select a fine arts program to stay in until high school to fulfill the graduation requirement.

English as a Second Language (ESL)
All new students will complete a home language survey when they enroll. For students previously enrolled in a Texas public school, the original home language survey will be requested from the previous district. If the response on the home language survey indicates a language other than English, the student will be referred to the Parent Education Center for language testing. If the student is classified as an English Learner (EL), they are then enrolled in the appropriate English class with an ESL certified teacher. Students with beginning level English proficiency will be enrolled in an ESL class. These classes teach students to listen, speak, read, and write for a variety of audiences and purposes and in a variety of forms. The students will develop English word recognition, decoding, and encoding skills. Emphasis is placed on communicating effectively in English.

Special Education
Special education programs and classes, provided under state and federal guidelines, are offered at the middle school level. Students with disabilities may be eligible for special education services. A referral or evaluation can be made by the parents, school personnel, or outside agency. Parental permission is required for the initial evaluation. The student receiving special education services is dependent upon meeting disability criteria, the need for specially designed instruction as determined by the ARD committee, and parental consent. For additional information, please contact your student's campus.

Dyslexia
Students identified with dyslexia may participate in the Dyslexia program. Students receive instructional support in phonological awareness, sound-symbol association, syllabication, orthography, morphology, syntax, reading comprehension, and reading fluency. Study skills, thinking skills, and test-taking strategies are also offered. Placement in a Dyslexia class is dependent on the decision and placement of the campus 504 Committee or ARD Committee. Parental permission is required for participation.

Section 504
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires that no qualified student who demonstrates a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefit of, or be subject to discrimination in any program or activity offered by Rockwall ISD. "Placement decisions are to be made by a group of persons who are knowledgeable about the child, the meaning of the evaluation data, placement options, least restrictive environment requirements, and comparable services" [34 C.F.R. §104.35(c)(3)]. Students who are served through Section 504 may receive accommodations based on their disability to "level the playing field" with their non-disabled peers as determined by the Section 504 committee.

Technology
Technology applications and skills are integrated into the curriculum of all subjects through district provided devices and the Bring Your Own Technology initiative. Each campus covers digital citizenship and the Technology Application TEKS through technology integrated into all courses. Parents must sign the acceptableuse policy, located in the online student handbook, before their child has access to a school's technology.

Athletics
This class requires practice outside the normal school day; on those occasions, parents would be responsible for transportation. Athletic contests are scheduled with other schools located inside and outside the district.
A student who receives, at the end of any nine-week grading period, a grade below 70 in any academic class (other than an identified advanced class) may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks. The student regains eligibility when the principal and teachers determine that he or she has: (1) earned a passing grade of 70 or above in all academic classes and (2) completed the three school weeks of ineligibility. The following courses are the Rockwall ISD middle school advanced courses which are eligible for the No-Pass, No-Play Exemption:

Advanced Classes Identified for No-Pass, No-Play Exemption
The following classes are exempt from the no-pass, no-play requirement:

English/Language Arts	**Science**
English 7 Honors	Science 7 Honors
SAGE English 7 Honors	Integrated Physics and ChemistryHonors (IPC)
English 8 Honors	SAGE Science 7 Honors
SAGE English 8 Honors	SAGE Science 8 (IPC Honors)
Math	**Social Studies**
Math 7 Honors	Texas History Honors
Algebra I Honors	U.S. History 8 Honors

Cheerleading/Drill Team
Seventh grade and eighth grade students may participate in cheerleading or drill team classes. Cheerleading and drill team classes may be used as a substitute for P.E. Participation at events and competitions outside the normal school day is required. Students participation in cheerleading and drill team must have a physical examination, as required by the University Interscholastic League (UIL), prior to participation. Students must meet UIL eligibility requirements to perform at games, contests, and other public events.

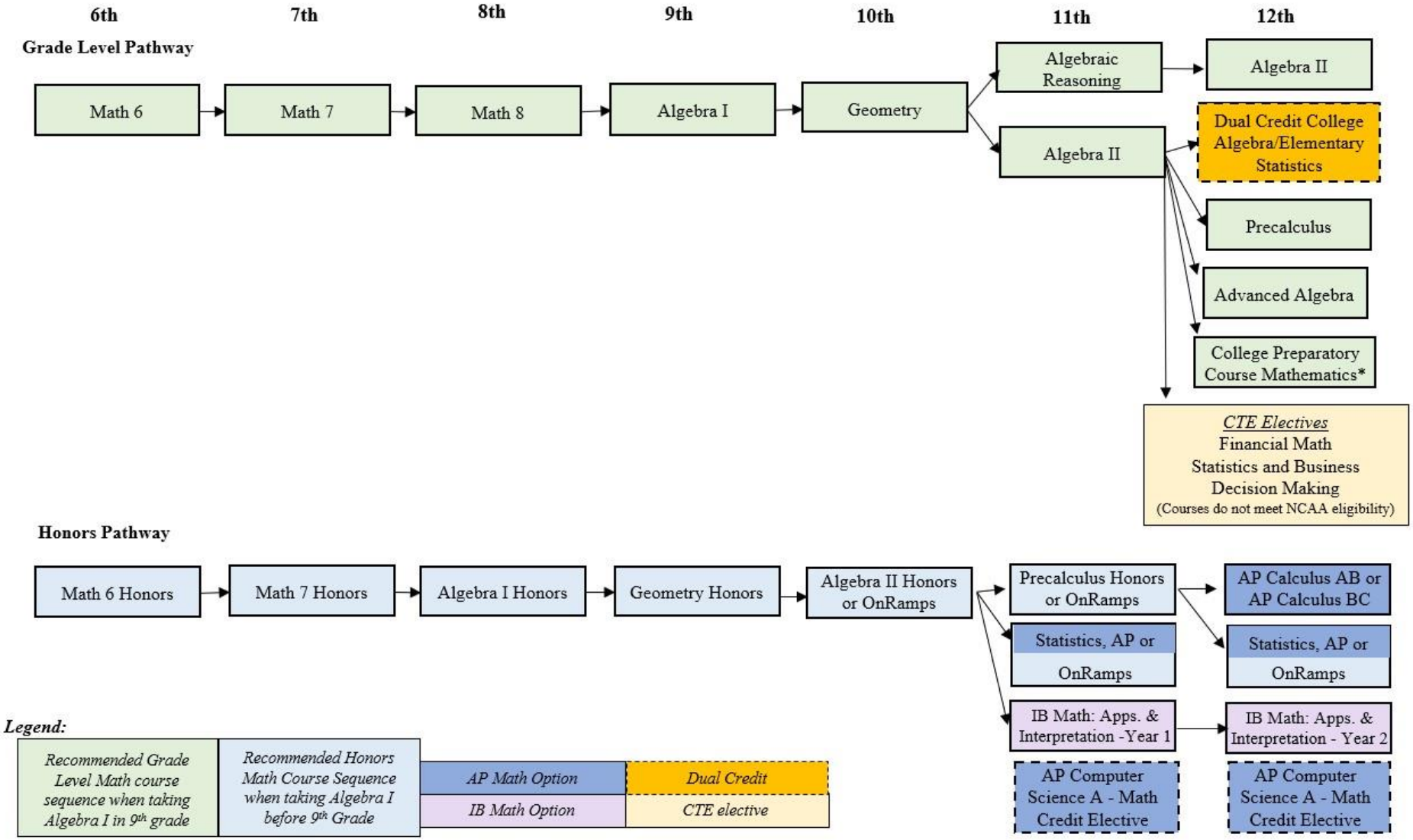
Off-Campus Physical Activity (OCPA) Substitution
Students are allowed to substitute certain physical activities upon approval by district administration. Deadlines for approval apply for up to four semesters. Fees apply. See the Rockwall ISD OCPA webpage for more information.

Enrichment Opportunities
Many before and after-school programs, including tutoring, are offered during the year to promote academic knowledge and skills. These programs serve to enrich the curriculum and/or accelerate learning. Some programs involve practice and participation in academic competitions. There are a variety of clubs and organizations offered at the school. Please see the counselor for additional information.

Course Credit for Attendance
Board policy requires students to be in attendance 90% of the days a class is offered to receive credit.

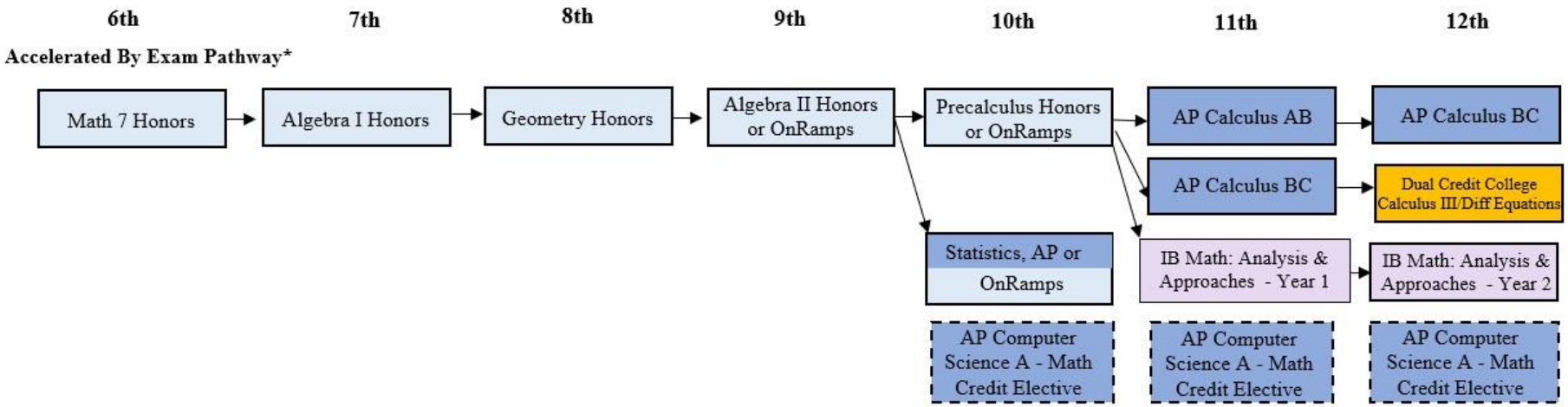
	6th through 10th Recommended Grade Course Sequence				
Course	**6th grade Science**	**7th grade Science**	**8th grade Science**	**9th grade Science**	**10th grade Science**
Grade Level	Science 6	Science 7	Science 8	IPC	Biology
Honors	SAGE Science 6	SAGE/Science 7 Honors	SAGE/IPC Honors High School Course	Biology Honors	Chemistry Honors
Course	**6th grade English**	**7th grade English**	**8th grade English**	**9th grade English**	**10th grade English**
Grade Level	English 6	English 7	English 8	English I	English II
Honors	SAGE/English 6 Honors	SAGE/English 7 Honors	SAGE/English 8 Honors	SAGE/English I Honors	SAGE/English II Honors
Course	**6th grade Math**	**7th grade Math**	**8th grade Math**	**9th grade Math**	**10th grade Math**
Grade Level	Math 6	Math 7	Math 8	Algebra I	Geometry
Honors	Math 6 Honors	Math 7 Honors	Algebra I Honors	Geometry Honors	Algebra II Honors or OnRamps Algebra II Honors
Accelerated by Exam	Math 7 Honors	Algebra I Honors	Geometry Honors	Algebra II Honors or OnRamps Algebra II Honors	Precalculus Honors or OnRamps Precalculus Honors
Course	**6th grade History**	**7th grade History**	**8th grade History**	**9th grade History**	**10th grade History**
Grade Level	Social Studies 6	Texas History 7	U.S. History 8	World Geography	World History
Honors	Social Studies 6 Honors	Texas History 7 Honors	U.S. History 8 Honors	World Geography Honors or AP Human Geography	AP World History

Grades 6 – 12 Mathematics



Please note that a student may choose a second math course in one school year if prerequisites have been met. Use the table on the previous page to verify prerequisites.
**Designated for students who have not demonstrated college readiness.*

Grades 6 – 12 Mathematics



**Students qualify based on meeting additional testing through meeting minimum scores by Credit by Examination (see Academic Planning Guide).*

6th Grade Sample Schedule

6th Science or SAGE/Science 6th Honors
6th English or SAGE/English 7 Honors
6th Social Studies or Social Studies 6th Honors
6th Math or Math 6th Honors
6th Fine Art
PE or Pre-Athletics

7th and 8th Grade Sample Schedules

7th GRADE SAMPLE SCHEDULE	8th GRADE SAMPLE SCHEDULE
English 7 Or SAGE English 7 Honors or English 7 Honors	English 8 Or SAGE English Honors 8 or English 8 Honors
Math 7 Or Math 7 Honors (Prerequisite Math 6 Honors)	Math 8 Or Algebra I Honors (high school credit)
Science 7 Or SAGE Science 7 Honors (Compacted) or Science 7 Honors (Compacted)	Science 8 Or SAGE IPC Honors or IPC Honors (high school credit)
Texas History Or Texas History Honors	U.S. History 8 Or US History 8 Honors
PE or Athletics	PE or Athletics
7th Grade Elective (Please note the prerequisites listed in the course descriptions.)	8th Grade Elective (Please note the prerequisites listed in the course descriptions.)
7th Grade Elective (Please note the prerequisites listed in the course descriptions.)	8th Grade Elective (Please note the prerequisites listed in the course descriptions.)

Student Worksheet for Three-Year Plan

Use this sample two-year plan to make tentative course selections. Discuss with your school counselor before registration for next school year.

Grade 6
English: English 6, SAGE/English 6 Honors
Math: Math 6, Math 6 Honors
Science: Science 6, SAGE/Science 6 Honors
Social Studies: Social Studies 6, Social Studies 6 Honors
Grade 7
English: English 7, English 7 Honors, or SAGE/English 7 Honors (circle one)
Math: Math 7 or Math 7 Honors (circle one)
Science: Science 7 or Science 7 Honors or SAGE Science 7 (circle one)
History: TX History 7 or TX History Honors (circle one)
PE or Athletics
Elective:
Elective:
Grade 8
English: English 8, English 8 Honors, or SAGE/English 8 Honors (circle one)
Math: Course selection is determined by 7th-grade math course performance.
Science: Course selection is determined by 7th-grade science course performance.
History: U.S. History 8 or U.S. History 8 Honors (circle one)
PE or Athletics
Elective:
Elective:

6th Grade Curriculum Content

6th Grade English

ENGLISH 6
The English 6 course is designed to meet the educational needs of students through the study of reading, writing, research and inquiry, listening, and speaking. Students will study a variety of texts, both self-selected and assigned, to enrich and develop analysis skills. Writing critically and creatively continues to be developed, as well as the study of the craft of writing for a variety of purposes.

ENGLISH 6 HONORS
This course introduces students to the expectations of advanced academic courses by exploring various reading and writing experiences to foster critical thinking. One goal of this course is to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content through the analysis of a variety of texts. Students will write in a variety of modes including responses to literature, argumentative, informational, and narrative compositions. Students and parents must sign an acknowledgment of understanding of the program before students are enrolled. Information regarding the rigor of the advanced academic course can be obtained from the counselor.

SAGE ENGLISH 6 HONORS
This course is designed to meet the educational needs of students identified as gifted and talented in the area of humanities. Students must qualify in order to enroll. This course introduces students to the expectations of advanced academic courses by exploring a variety of reading and writing experiences to foster critical thinking. One goal of this course is to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content through the analysis of a variety of texts. Students will write in a variety of modes including responses to literature, argumentative, informational, and narrative compositions. Students and parents must sign an acknowledgment of understanding of the program before students are enrolled. Information regarding the rigor of the advanced academic course can be obtained from the counselor.

6th Grade Social Studies

SOCIAL STUDIES 6
This course explores the people, places, and historical developments of the contemporary world. Students will examine the concepts of limited and unlimited government, gaining an understanding of citizenship in various societies. By comparing the core institutions of government, economics, education, and religion, students will develop a broader understanding of how societies function. Throughout the course, essential skills such as map and globe interpretation, chart and graph analysis, reading, writing, and problem-solving will be integrated to enhance critical thinking and comprehension of global systems.

SOCIAL STUDIES 6 HONORS
This course offers the same exploration of the contemporary world as outlined in Social Studies 6 but with an added focus on developing higher-order thinking, clear writing, and content-specific reading skills. These enhancements are designed to prepare students for success in advanced social studies courses in high school.

6th Grade Science

SCIENCE 6
This course introduces students to foundational scientific concepts across five key strands: scientific and engineering practices, matter and energy, force and motion, Earth and space, and organisms and environments. Through hands-on investigations, students will ask questions, gather data, and observe phenomena to develop a deeper understanding of the natural world. The knowledge and skills acquired in this course will be tested on the Science 8 STAAR test, making it a critical step in preparing for future success.

SCIENCE 6 HONORS
Science 6 Honors covers the same core content as the on-level course but at an accelerated pace with a stronger emphasis on critical thinking and analysis. Students will participate in more advanced investigations and apply scientific and engineering principles to real-world situations. TEKS from this course will be assessed on the Science 8 STAAR test. Students in this course should be enrolled in the compacted or advanced math pathway. This course is designed to prepare students for advanced STEM pathways in honors and advanced academic programs, such as AP and IB.

SAGE SCIENCE 6 HONORS
SAGE Science 6 is designed for students identified as gifted and talented in STEM through district testing. Science 6 Honors covers the same core content as the on-level course but at an accelerated pace with a stronger emphasis on critical thinking and analysis. Students will participate in more advanced investigations and apply scientific and engineering principles to real-world situations. TEKS from this course will be assessed on the Science 8 STAAR test. Students in this course should be enrolled in the compacted or advanced math pathway. This course is designed to prepare students for advanced STEM pathways in honors and advanced academic programs, such as AP and IB.

6th Grade Math

MATH 6
This course focuses on the following areas of study: number systems, algebraic reasoning, geometry, statistics, and financial literacy. Students will learn about mathematical concepts such as operations with integers and rational numbers, proportionality, representing one-step algebraic relationships with equations, tables, and graphs, and summarizing statistical data.

MATH 6 HONORS
Recommended Prerequisite: Math 5 Honors
Students in this course will take the Grade 6 Math STAAR.
This course is the first of two linked courses which compact the curriculum of 6th and 7th grade. This course prepares students for Math 7 Honors, the next course in the math pathway. Primary focal points include proportionality, two-dimensional measurement, data analysis, and algebraic representations.

6th Grade Fine Arts

Students in 6th Grade are required to take a year-long course in Fine Arts.

Fine Arts classes may require participation in events and practices outside the normal school day; on those occasions, parents are responsible for transportation. Contests are scheduled with other schools located inside and outside the district. Transportation may be provided for competitive events outside the district. A fee may be required for Fine Arts classes.

At the end of any nine weeks grading period, a student who receives a grade below 70 in any class not identified for no-pass no-play exemption may not participate in competitive events for at least three school weeks. The student regains eligibility when the student has earned a passing grade of 70 or above in all classes and completed the three school weeks of ineligibility.

VISUAL ART:
6th Grade Visual Art
Prerequisite: None
In this introductory art course, students will embark on a creative journey, exploring the basics of art through hands-on projects and engaging activities. They will learn to express themselves while discovering the elements of art and principles of design. Through drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and other media, students will develop their artistic skills and build confidence in their abilities. Along the way, they'll be introduced to a variety of artists, sparking their imagination and deepening their appreciation for the visual arts. Events outside the school day may be required. Supplies and equipment fees apply.

BAND:
6th Grade Band
Prerequisite: None
Classes: Bassoon, Clarinet, Euphonium, Flute, French Horn, Oboe, Percussion, Saxophone, Trombone, Trumpet, and Tuba.
This is an entry-level course for students participating in the Rockwall ISD Band program. This initial course will provide students with the foundational musical knowledge and technical skills for playing a brass, percussion or woodwind instrument. Students will be able to describe and analyze musical sounds and be able to demonstrate musical artistry while performing a varied repertoire of music, individually and in groups. Events outside the school day may be required. Supplies and equipment fees apply.

CHOIR:
6th Grade Choir
Prerequisite: None
Classes: Beginner Men, Beginner Women, and Beginner Mixed.
This is an entry-level course for students participating in the Rockwall ISD Choir program. This initial course will provide students with the foundational musical knowledge and vocal skills needed to perform in various ensembles. Students will be able to describe and analyze musical sounds and demonstrate musical artistry while performing a varied repertoire of music, individually and in groups. Events outside the school day may be required. Supplies and equipment fees apply.

ORCHESTRA:
6th Grade Orchestra
Prerequisite: None
Classes: Violin, Viola, Cello and Bass
This is an entry-level course for students participating in the Rockwall ISD Orchestra program. This initial course will provide students with the foundational musical knowledge and technical skills for playing one of the four string instruments. Students will be able to describe and analyze musical sounds and demonstrate musical artistry while performing a varied repertoire of music, individually and in groups. Events outside the school day may be required. Supplies and equipment fees apply.

6th Grade Physical Education

PHYSICAL EDUCATION I
This course teaches the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to a physically active lifestyle. Sixth-grade students apply similar concepts from one-physical activity or movement setting to another. Their knowledge of safetyand the ability to manage their own behavior are reinforced. Instruction is directed toward encouraging the incorporation of physical and recreational activity, fitness, and health into a daily routine ~~and~~ toward fundamental skill development and a lifetime of wellness.

6th GRADE PRE-ATHLETICS
This course teaches the knowledge and skills that provide the foundation for sports and access to tryouts and participation for 7th Athletics. This is considered a Physical Education Class and does not require a Physical for students.

7th Grade Curriculum Content

7th Grade English

ENGLISH 7
The English 7 course is designed to meet the educational needs of students through the study of reading, writing, research and inquiry, listening, and speaking. Students will study a variety of texts, both self-selected and assigned, to enrich and develop analysis skills. Writing critically and creatively continues to be developed, as well as the study of the craft of writing for a variety of purposes.

ENGLISH 7 HONORS
This course introduces students to the expectations of high school advanced academics courses by exploring a variety of reading and writing experiences to foster critical thinking. One goal of this course is to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content through the analysis of a variety of texts. Students will write in a variety of modes including responses to literature, argumentative, informational, and narrative compositions. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for high school AP, IB, or dual credit English coursework that can earn college credit. Students and parents must sign an acknowledgment of understanding of the program before students are enrolled. Information regarding the rigor of the advanced academic course can be obtained from the counselor.

SAGE ENGLISH 7 HONORS
This course is designed to meet the educational needs of students identified as gifted and talented in the area of humanities. Students must qualify for this class. This course introduces students to the expectations of high school advanced academic courses by exploring various reading and writing experiences to foster critical thinking. One goal of this course is to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content through the analysis of a variety of texts. Students will write in a variety of modes including responses to literature, argumentative, informational, and narrative compositions. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for high school AP, IB, or dual credit English coursework that can earn college credit. Students and parents must sign an acknowledgment of understanding of the program before students are enrolled. Information regarding the rigor of the advanced academic course can be obtained from the counselor.

7th Grade Social Studies

TEXAS HISTORY 7
This course provides students with an in-depth examination of the history of Texas from early times through the present day. Students will learn how the history of Texas has been impacted by people from a variety of backgrounds and traditions and how they helped shape the past, present, and future of Texas.

TEXAS HISTORY 7 HONORS
This course provides the same examination of the history of Texas as described above in Texas History 7; however, students will also develop higher-order thinking skills, clear writing skills, and content-area reading skills to prepare students for success in social studies advanced academic courses in high school.

7th Grade Science

SCIENCE 7
This course builds upon foundational concepts from 6th grade, exploring key scientific strands such as scientific and engineering practices, matter and energy, force and motion, Earth and space, and organisms and environments. Students will engage in hands-on investigations, ask questions, gather data, and observe phenomena to further deepen their understanding of the natural world. The knowledge and skills acquired in this course will be tested on the Science 8 STAAR test, preparing students for future academic success.

SCIENCE 7 HONORS
Science 7 Honors cover the same core content as the on-level course but at an accelerated pace with an emphasis on critical thinking and deeper analysis. Students will engage in advanced investigations and apply scientific and engineering principles to real-world scenarios. TEKS from this course will be assessed on the Science 8 STAAR test. Students in this course should be enrolled in the compacted or advanced math pathway. This course prepares students for advanced STEM pathways, honors courses, and advanced academic programs such as AP and IB.

SAGE SCIENCE 7 HONORS
SAGE Science 7 Honors is designed for students identified as gifted and talented in STEM through district testing. Science 7 Honors cover the same core content as the on-level course but at an accelerated pace with an emphasis on critical thinking and deeper analysis. Students will engage in advanced investigations and apply scientific and engineering principles to real-world scenarios. TEKS from this course will be assessed on the Science 8 STAAR test. Students in this course should be enrolled in the compacted or advanced math pathway. This course prepares students for advanced STEM pathways, honors courses, and advanced academic programs such as AP and IB.

7th Grade Math

MATH 7
This course focuses on the following areas of study: numeracy, proportionality, algebraic relationships, probability, and statistics. Students use mathematical concepts, algorithms, and properties to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations.

MATH 7 HONORS
Prerequisite - Math 6 Honors
Students in this course will take the Grade 8 Math STAAR
Math 7 Honors is a compacted version of 7th grade Math and 8th grade Math. Some 7th-grade TEKS and all 8th-grade TEKS are emphasized. Therefore, this course moves at a faster pace and a greater depth than regular Math 7. This course is designed for students who have an interest in STEM fields, a particular talent in mathematics, or plan to take future Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) mathematics course(s). This course is designed to prepare students to be successful in Algebra I Honors in their 8th-grade year and on track for AP Calculus or IB Math in high school. This course serves as a prerequisite for Algebra I.

ALGEBRA I HONORS
Prerequisite - Math 7 Honors or Math 8 EquivalentHigh School Credit: 1
This is an honors course for high school credit. Algebra I students will study linear, quadratic, and exponential functions and their related transformations, equations, and associated solutions. Honors students will extend these Algebra I concepts and skills in order to be prepared for AP/IB math courses in the future.
Successful completion of this course results in one year of high school math credit. The grade earned for this course will be posted on the high school transcript and will be included in the calculation of the student's high school grade point average, per Board Policy EIC(Local). Students in this course will take the high school EOC Algebra 1 exam.

7th Grade Physical Education (PE)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION II

This course teaches the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to a physically-active lifestyle. Seventh- grade students apply similar concepts from one physical activity or movement setting to another. Their knowledge of safety and the ability to manage their own behavior is reinforced. Instruction is directed toward the incorporation of physical and recreational activity, fitness, and health into a daily routine and toward fundamental skill development and a lifetime of wellness. Students enrolled in PE may also have the opportunity to participate in the following PE/UIL activities before or after school. All students participating are required to have a physical examination and all other paperwork before the first day of school. Participating students must meet all UIL eligibility requirements. Tryouts may be required to participate in the following sports:

- Cross Country
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Track
- Wrestling
- Basketball
    - Students interested in playing basketball only will sign-up for PE and will participate intryouts during the fall semester.
    - Students who make the team will have their schedule changed to Athletics for the remainderof the school year.
    - Those who do not make the team will remain in PE.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Prerequisite – Physical Education I

This course teaches the knowledge and skills to demonstrate competency in movement and fitness in outdoor and recreational pursuits, develop positive relationships with the environment, and experience an active approach to learning that involves being outdoors. Instruction is directed toward safety, communication, problem solving, and self-development through a variety of correct techniques for outdoor skills, games, and activities. Certain certifications may be available for students.

7th Grade Boy's Athletics

FOOTBALL

The goal of the football program is to develop a winning attitude that enhances individual and team success and affords students the opportunity to be active contributors. Students will be utilizing their individual skills and talents as they become part of the team. This course requires afternoon practice outside the normal school day, including some Saturdays, and parents are responsible for transportation. Games are scheduled for evenings. Tryouts may be required to participate in middle school football. All students participating are required to have a physical examination and all other paperwork before the first day of school. Athletics is governed under UILguidelines. This course requires a full-year commitment or participation in another sport. Students enrolled in football may also have the opportunity to participate in the following UIL activities before or after school. Tryouts may be required to participate in the following sports:

- Cross Country
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Track
- Wrestling
- Basketball
    - For students interested in playing basketball only, these students will register for PE and will participate in tryouts during the fall semester.
    - Students who make the team will have their schedule changed to Athletics for the remainderof the school year.
    - Those who do not make the team will remain in PE.

BOYS' GYMNASTICS
This course emphasizes the development of basic gymnastics skills, strength, and flexibility. Skill progressions and compulsory routines are important aspects of training. Students are required to have a physical examination and all other paperwork prior to the first day of school. Competitive season is from December to March, and tryouts will be required to participate. Uniform and equipment fees apply.

7th Grade Girl's Athletics

CHEERLEADING
Prerequisite – Tryout Required
This class meets during the school day and consists of conditioning activities, skill development in several cheerleading techniques, and specific preparations for cheer competitions and game performances. Cheerleaders participate in cheer competitions, summer camps, pep rallies, games, and community events. Students gain memberships through tryouts held during the spring semester of the previous school year. Cheerleading may require practice outside the normal school day. See the Rockwall ISD Cheerleading Handbook for details on tryouts and team requirements.

GIRLS' GYMNASTICS
This course emphasizes the development of basic gymnastics skills, strength, and flexibility. Skill progressions and compulsory routines are important aspects of training. The competitive season is from December to March. Students are required to have a physical examination and all other paperwork prior to the first day of school. Tryouts will be required to participate. Uniform and equipment fees apply.

VOLLEYBALL AND BASKETBALL
This course is to develop a winning attitude that enhances individual and team success and affords students the opportunity to be active contributors. Students will be utilizing their individual skills and talents as they become part of the team. This course requires morning practice outside the normal school day, and on those occasions, parents are responsible for transportation. Games are scheduled for evenings and some weekends. Tryouts maybe required to participate in all middle school girls' athletic teams. All students participating are required to have a physical examination and all other paperwork before the first day of school. Athletics is governed under UIL guidelines.
Students enrolled in Athletics may also have the opportunity to participate in the following UIL activities before or after school. Tryouts may be required to participate in the following sports:

- Cross Country
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Track
- Wrestling

7th Grade Electives

Note: Some electives may not be offered at all campuses. The student choice sheet will reflect which courses are offered at each middle school campus.

AVID I
Prerequisite - Must be identified as an AVID student through an application and interview process.
This course is an elective course that prepares identified students for college eligibility and success. Students receive instruction in writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading strategies in addition to note-taking and organizational skills that are necessary for academic success in all courses. AVID students must enroll in at least one honors course in addition to the AVID elective course.

BROADCASTING 1
This course will provide a hands-on experience using industry standard software to film, edit, and broadcast videos. This class is primarily responsible for the final product of our daily school announcements. Students may also create videos, as needed, for campus needs.

H.O.P.E. (HELPING OUR PEERS EXCEL)
Prerequisite – Student application and interview and/or teacher recommendation
This course is a peer-tutoring/mentoring program that pairs seventh and eighth grade students with students needing peer academic and social (friendship) support. Peer-tutors will assist these students one class period a day. In addition to helping the student with his/her class work, the peer-tutor will also develop a friendship with the student.

INVESTIGATING CAREERS IN ROBOTICS I
This course is a lab-based course that uses a hands-on approach to introduce the basic concepts of robotics. Students will focus on the construction and programming of autonomous mobile robots. The goal of this course is to provide middle school students with a foundation for success in high school and beyond as they learn more about robotics and engineering career fields. Students explore college and career planning, research labor market information, learn job-seeking skills, and create documents required for employment. Students learn a variety of employability skills, including adaptability, problem-solving, oral and written communication, collaboration and teamwork, creativity, responsibility, ethics, professionalism, and technology use.

JOURNALISM 1
This course is an introduction to the role of mass media in today's society. Emphasis will focus on teaching the fundamentals of news writing, feature writing, editorial writing, and headline writing as well as basic photography, broadcast news, reviews, polls, and surveys.

MULTI-SENSORY TEACHING APPROACH (MTA)
This course is designed to provide instructional support in phonological awareness, sound-symbol association, syllabication, orthography, morphology, syntax, reading comprehension, and reading fluency. This class is designed for students who are identified with dyslexia. Placement in this class is to be made by a campus 504 Committee or ARD Committee.

READING ELECTIVE
This course is designed to improve advanced reading and discussion skills. Activities and topics will include drama, literary circles, genre studies, interdisciplinary projects, nonfiction, poetry, and oral presentations. Writing will be integrated in conjunction with projects planned by the reading teacher. Students enter this course upon teacher/administrator recommendation.
Note: A student who has or is at risk for dyslexia or a related reading difficulty may be eligible to participate in a middle school MTA elective. Students in MTA receive instructional support in reading fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and academic writing. Study skills, thinking skills, and test-taking strategies are also offered. Please see the counselor for additional information.

SPEECH
In this course students will learn about personal, one-on-one, small group, and mass media communication. Oratory, small group discussions, and interviewing skills are stressed. Students learn persuasive and mass media techniques as well as the basics of media presentations, business communications, and radio/TV broadcasting.

TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS I
In this course students will participate in research, critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, digital citizenship, and technology operations and concepts. Through the study of technology applications, students make informed decisions by understanding current and emerging technologies, appropriate digital tools, and personal learning networks. As competent researchers and responsible digital citizens, students use creative thinking to solve problems while developing career and college readiness skills.

TEEN LEADERSHIP
This course prepares students for leadership positions in the school and community. The focus of this course ison the development of student character and vision so students will be prepared for the challenges of leadership while learning how to make good impressions, present ideas, become independent thinkers, work withdifficult people, and seek personal excellence.

YEARBOOK 1
Prerequisite – Student Application Required
This course is an elective, two semester course where students will publish a yearbook for the school. Students will learn skills in planning, photography, word processing, page layout, graphic design, writing, and marketing. Interested students must apply in the Spring Semester.

7th Grade Fine Arts

Note: Some electives may not be offered at all campuses. The student choice sheet will reflect which courses are offered at each middle school campus. It is recommended students remain in a Fine Arts course through high school to fulfill the graduation requirement.

Fine Arts classes require participation in events and practices outside the normal school day; on those occasion parents would be responsible for transportation. Contests are scheduled with other schools located inside and outside the district. Transportation may be provided for competitive events outside the district. A fee may be required for Fine Arts classes.

At the end of any nine weeks grading period, a student who receives a grade below 70 in any class not identified for no-pass, no-play exemption may not participate in competitive Fine Arts events for at least three school weeks. The student regains eligibility when the student has earned a passing grade of 70 or above in all classes and completed the three school weeks of ineligibility.

VISUAL ART:

7th GRADE VISUAL ART I

Prerequisite: None

In this introductory art course, students will embark on a creative journey, exploring the basics of art through hands-on projects and engaging activities. They will learn to express themselves while discovering the elements of art and principles of design. Through drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and other media, students will develop their artistic skills and build confidence in their abilities. Along the way, they'll be introduced to a variety of artists, sparking their imagination and deepening their appreciation for the visual arts. Events outside the school day may be required. Supplies and equipment fees apply.

7th GRADE VISUAL ART I ADVANCED

Prerequisite: 6th Grade Visual Arts and teacher approval

This art course will explore advanced concepts of art and visual literacy skills using critical thinking, imagination, and the senses to observe and explore the world by learning about, understanding, and applying the elements of art, principles of design, and expressive qualities. Students will learn studio practices to develop their ideas into original artworks using a variety of media with appropriate skills. Events outside the school day may be required. Supplies and equipment fees apply.

BAND

Prerequisite: Audition Required

Classes: Varsity Band, Non Varsity Band, Sub Non Varsity Band A, B, C, etc.

This course is a continuation of the previous year(s) of Band. Students will continue to develop their musical understanding through continued description and analysis of musical sounds and through demonstration of musical artistry while performing a varied repertoire of music, individually and in groups on various instruments. Students are expected to sight-read music, interpret music symbols and terms, and relate music to history, society, and culture. Preparation for and participation in various performances and competitions are emphasized. Students must meet UIL eligibility requirements to perform at contests, and other public events. Band may require practice outside of the school day, and (on such occasions) parents will be responsible for transportation. Uniform and equipment fees apply.

CHOIR

Prerequisite: Audition Required

Classes: Advanced Men, Advanced Women, Advanced Mixed, Intermediate Men, Intermediate Women, Intermediate Mixed.

This course is a continuation of the previous year(s) of Choir. Students will continue to develop their musical understanding through continued description and analysis of musical sounds and through demonstration of musical artistry while performing a varied repertoire of music, individually and in groups. Students are expected to sight-read music, interpret music symbols and terms, and relate music to history, society, and culture. Preparation for and participation in various performances and competitions are emphasized. Students must meet UIL eligibility requirements to perform at contests and other public events. Choir may require practice outside of the school day, and (on such occasions) parents will be responsible for transportation. Uniform and equipment fees apply.

ORCHESTRA
Prerequisite: Audition Required
Classes: Varsity Orchestra, Non-Varsity Orchestra, Sub Non-Varsity Orchestra A, B, C, etc.
This course is a continuation of the previous year(s) of the Orchestra. Students will continue to develop their musical understanding through continued description and analysis of musical sounds and through demonstration of musical artistry while performing a varied repertoire of music, individually and in groups on various string instruments. Students are expected to sight-read music, interpret music symbols and terms, and relate music to history, society, and culture. Preparation for and participation in various performances and competitions are emphasized. Students must meet UIL eligibility requirements to perform at contests and other public events. Band may require practice outside of the school day, and (on such occasions) parents will be responsible for transportation. Uniform and equipment fees apply.

DRILL TEAM
Prerequisite – Tryout Required
This class meets during the school day and consists of conditioning activities, skill development in several drill teams and dance techniques, and specific preparations for dance competitions and game performances. Drill Teams participate in dance competitions, summer camps, pep rallies, games, and community events. Students gain membership through tryouts held during the spring semester of the previous school year. The Drill Team may require practice outside the normal school day. See the Rockwall ISD Drill Team Handbook for details on tryouts and team requirements.

7th GRADE THEATRE I
Prerequisite: None
This is an entry level performance based course that incorporates an introduction to theatre, the study of theatre history, the role of an actor in interpreting and performing comedic and dramatic literature, performance theory and techniques, and an overview of the technical elements of theatrical production. Requirements include attendance at one live district theatrical performance and complete a written critique.

7th GRADE ADVANCED THEATRE
Prerequisite: Audition, and Teacher approval
This is an audition based, UIL production centered course with a maximum of 24 students per UIL requirements. This course is an advanced fine arts course exploring the principles of production through practical experiences in acting, creative movement, improvisation, directing and technical theatre. Requirements of the class: UIL One-Act Play, attendance at Texas State Junior Thespian Festival, involvement in all productions, after school rehearsals, and attendance of one live district theatrical performance per semester with written critiques.

8th Grade Curriculum Content

8th Grade English

ENGLISH 8
This course is designed to meet the educational needs of students through the study of reading, writing, research and inquiry, listening, and speaking. Students will study a variety of texts, both self-selected and assigned, to enrich and develop analysis skills. Writing critically and creatively continues to be developed, as well as the study of the craft of writing for a variety of purposes.

ENGLISH 8 HONORS
This course introduces students to the expectations of high school advanced academic courses by exploring a variety of reading and writing experiences to foster critical thinking. One goal of this course is to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content through the analysis of a variety of texts. Students will write in a variety of modes including responses to literature, argumentative, informational, and narrative compositions. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for high school AP, IB, or dual credit English coursework that can earn college credit. Students and parents must sign an acknowledgment of understanding of the program before students are enrolled. Information regarding the rigor of the advanced academic course can be obtained from the counselor.

SAGE ENGLISH 8 HONORS
This course is designed to meet the educational needs of students identified as gifted and talented in the area of humanities. Students must qualify for this course. This course introduces students to the expectations of high school advanced academic courses by exploring a variety of reading and writing experiences to foster critical thinking. One goal of this course is to foster independent learning and encourage in-depth exploration of the content through the analysis of a variety of texts. Students will write in a variety of modes including responses to literature, argumentative, informational, and narrative compositions. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for high school AP, IB, or dual credit English coursework that can earn college credit. Students and parents must sign an acknowledgment of understanding of the program before students are enrolled. Information regarding the rigor of the advanced academic course can be obtained from the counselor.

8th Grade Social Studies

U.S. HISTORY 8: BEGINNINGS TO 1877
This course provides students with an in-depth examination of American history from Jamestown through Reconstruction. Students will gain insight into the political, economic, religious, and social events that influenced colonial America, the American Revolution, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, the challenges facing the early Republic, western expansion, sectionalism, and the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will also examine the origins of the free enterprise system and the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens.

U.S. HISTORY 8 HONORS: BEGINNINGS TO 1877
This course provides students with the same examination of American history from Jamestown through Reconstruction as described above in U.S. History 8: Beginnings to 1877; however, students will also develop the higher-order thinking skills, clear writing skills, and content-area reading skills to prepare them for successin social studies advanced academic courses in high school.

8th Grade Science

SCIENCE 8
This course continues building on students' prior knowledge from 6th and 7th grade, focusing on key scientific strands such as scientific and engineering practices, matter and energy, force and motion, Earth and space, and organisms and environments. Students will engage in hands-on investigations, ask questions, gather data, and observe phenomena to deepen their understanding of scientific concepts. The knowledge and skills acquired in this course will be tested on the Science 8 STAAR test, preparing students for future academic success in high school science courses.

SCIENCE 8 HONORS
INTEGRATED PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY (IPC HONORS)
Prerequisite - Science 7 Honors (Compacted)High School Credit: 1
Students in this course will take the Grade 8 Science STAAR
This course is the second of two linked courses that compact the curriculum of 7th and 8th grade Science along with the high school course Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC). As the concepts are taught, they will be differentiated to enable students to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate scientific processes and skills and will prepare students for the rigor of high school advanced academic courses and should be taken by those students preparing for science-related careers. This is the science course for those 8th-grade students concurrently enrolled in Algebra I Honors or higher math. Successful completion of this course results in one year of high school science credit. The grade earned for this course will be posted on the high school transcript and will be included in the calculation of the student's high school grade point average per Board Policy EIC(Local).

SAGE SCIENCE 8 HONORS
INTEGRATED PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY (IPC HONORS)
Prerequisite SAGE Science 7 Honors (Compacted)
High School Credit: 1
Students in this course will take the Grade 8 Science STAAR
This course is designed to meet the educational needs of students identified as gifted and talented in STEM. This course is the second of two linked courses that compact the curriculum of 7th and 8th grade Science along with the high school course Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC). As the concepts are taught, they will be differentiated to enable students to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate scientific processes and skills and will prepare students for the rigor of high school advanced academic courses and should be taken by those students preparing for science-related career. This is the science course for those 8th grade students concurrently enrolled in Algebra I Honors or higher math. Successful completion of this course results in one year of high school science credit. The grade earned for this course will be posted on the high school transcript and will be included in the calculation of the student's high school grade point average per Board Policy EIC(Local).

8th Grade Math

Rockwall ISD Guidelines for Enrollment in Algebra I

In order to satisfy the Algebra I prerequisite, students must demonstrate competency in the "Math 8 or equivalent" course as a prerequisite before enrolling in Algebra I.
§111.39. Algebra I, Adopted 2012 (One Credit) (a) General requirements. Students shall be awarded one credit for successful completion of this course. This course is recommended for students in Grade 8 or 9. Prerequisite: Math, Grade 8 or its equivalent. In Rockwall ISD, this means "passing" any of the following:

- Math 8 course
- Math 7 Honors course
- Math 8 STAAR - any administration
- Math 8A and 8B Credit by Exam (CBE) from Texas Tech
- Math 8 Summer School between 8th grade and 9th grade

For each student who fails the Math 7 Honors course and the Math 8 STAAR, the only course choice for the 8thgrade year is Math 8. Students who fail Math 7 Honors but pass STAAR should also be enrolled in Math 8 the following year. Math 8 is also the recommended course for students who fail Math 8 STAAR but pass Math 7 Honors. This will serve as accelerated instruction and provide each student with the intervention required. It will also provide students another year to develop mathematically to ensure a strong foundation of the middle school math concepts and skills prior to starting the more abstract Algebra I course of study.

For each student who fails Math 8 and the first two administrations of Math 8 STAAR, attending summer school,passing the June administration of Math 8 STAAR, or the CBE are the only remaining options for the student to demonstrate Math 8 competency. Students who fail Math 8 but pass Math 8 STAAR, are eligible to enroll in Algebra I. However, interventions should be provided for the student at the beginning of the next school year. If a student is promoted to high school but has not met any of the requirements listed above, Algebra I (and Algebra I Honors) is not an option at the beginning of the year.

MATH 8
This course focuses on proportional reasoning, algebraic expressions, equations, linear relationships, foundations of functions; as well as measurement and data analysis. These concepts are a required prerequisitefor Algebra I, the next course in the on-level pathway.

ALGEBRA I HONORS
Prerequisite - Math 7 Honors or Math 8 EquivalentHigh School Credit: 1
This is an honors course for high school credit. Algebra I students will study linear, quadratic, and exponential functions and their related transformations, equations, and associated solutions. Honors students will extend these Algebra I concepts and skills so that they may be prepared for AP/IB math courses in the future.
Successful completion of this course results in one year of high school math credit. The grade earned for this course will be posted on the high school transcript and will be included in the calculation of the student's high school grade point average per Board Policy EIC(Local). Students in this course will take the high schoolEOC Algebra 1 exam.

GEOMETRY HONORS
Prerequisite – Algebra I HonorsHigh School Credit: 1
This course meets the requirement for a second high school math credit needed for graduation. Geometry Honors builds on geometric and algebraic concepts students were exposed to from kindergarten through Algebra I. In Geometry Honors, students will begin to experience an inquiry-based learning format. Teachers will ask students to explore ideas and then create conjectures based on the patterns they observe. Geometry is a visual math course that focuses on shapes and their properties. In addition to its applications in construction, visual arts, technology, and design, geometry helps students develop logical reasoning skills and precise mathematical language. These skills will support student success in creating a strong argumentative essay in future English courses. Students generally choose On-Ramps Algebra II Honors (College Algebra) as the next math course. Algebra II Honors may be a suitable choice if the student is not ready for the rigor or responsibilities of the OnRamps Algebra II Honors (College Algebra) course. Strong math students may also choose IB Math in their junior/senior years. Successful completion of this course results in one year of high school math credit. The grade earned for this course will be posted on the high school transcript and will be included in the calculation of the student's high school grade point average per Board Policy EIC(Local).

8th Grade Physical Education (PE)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION II
This course teaches the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to a physically-active lifestyle. Eighth gradestudents apply similar concepts from one physical activity or movement setting to another. Their knowledge of safety andthe ability to manage their own behavior is reinforced. Instruction is directed toward the incorporation of physical and recreational activity, fitness, and health into a daily routine and toward fundamental skill development and a lifetime of wellness.

Students enrolled in PE may also have the opportunity to participate in the following PE/UIL activities before or after school. All students participating are required to have a physical examination and all other paperwork before the first day of school. Participating students must meet all UIL eligibility requirements. Tryouts may be required to participate in the following sport:

- Cross Country
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Track
- Wrestling
- Basketball –
    - Students interested in playing basketball only will sign-up for PE and will participate intryouts during the fall semester.
    - Students who make the team will have their schedule changed to Athletics for the remainderof the school year.
    - Those who do not make the team will remain in PE.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION
Prerequisite – Physical Education I
This course teaches the knowledge and skills to demonstrate competency in movement and fitness in outdoor and recreational pursuits to develop positive relationships with the environment, and experience an active approach to learning that involves being outdoors. Instruction is directed toward safety, communication, problem solving, and promoting self-development through a variety of correct techniques for outdoor skills, games and activities. Certain certifications may be available for students.

8th Grade Boy's Athletics

FOOTBALL
The goal of the football program is to develop a winning attitude that enhances individual and team success and affords students the opportunity to be active contributors. Students will be utilizing their individual skills and talents, as they become part of the team. This course requires afternoon practice outside the normal school day, including some Saturdays, and parents are responsible for transportation. Games are scheduled for evenings. Tryouts may be required to participate in middle school football. All students participating are required to have a physical examination and all other paperwork before the first day of school. Athletics is governed under UILguidelines. This course requires a full-year commitment or participation in another sport.
Students enrolled in football may also have the opportunity to participate in the following UIL activities before or after school. Tryouts may be required to participate in the following sports:

- Cross Country
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Track
- Wrestling
- Basketball
  - For students interested in playing basketball only, these students will register for PE and willparticipate in tryouts during the fall semester.
  - Students who make the team will have their schedule changed to Athletics for the remainderof the school year.
  - Those who do not make the team will remain in PE.

GYMNASTICS
This course emphasizes the development of basic gymnastics skills, strength, and flexibility. Skill progressions and compulsory routines are important aspects of training. Competitive season is from December to March. Students are required to have a physical examination and all other paperwork prior to the first day of school. Tryouts will be required to participate. Uniform and equipment fees apply.

8th Grade Girl's Athletics

CHEERLEADING
Prerequisite – Tryout Required
This class meets during the school day and consists of conditioning activities, skill development in several cheerleading techniques, and specific preparations for cheer competitions and game performances. Cheerleaders participate in cheer competitions, summer camps, pep rallies, games and community events. Students gain memberships through tryouts held during the spring semester of the previous school year. Cheerleading may require practice outside the normal school day. See the Rockwall ISD Cheerleading Handbook for details on tryouts and team requirements.

VOLLEYBALL AND BASKETBALL
This course is to develop a winning attitude that enhances individual and team success and affords students the opportunity to be an active contributor. Students will be utilizing their individual skills and talents as they become part of the team. This course requires morning practice outside the normal school day, and on those occasions, parents would be responsible for transportation. Games are scheduled for evenings and some weekends. Tryouts may be required to participate in all middle school girls' athletic teams. All students participating are required to have a physical examination and all other paperwork before the first day of school. Athletics is governed under UIL guidelines.

Students enrolled in Athletics may also have the opportunity to participate in the following UIL activities before or after school. Tryouts may be required to participate in the following sports.

- Cross Country
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Track
- Wrestling
- CHEER TEAM (Non-Competitive)

The primary purpose of the cheer team is to learn the importance of teamwork and promote school spirit and pride. The team may perform at athletic home games. Students are required to have a physical examination and all other paperwork prior to the first day of school. Uniform and equipment fees apply.

8th Grade Electives

Note: Some electives may not be offered at all campuses. The student choice sheet will reflect what is offered ateach middle school campus.

AVID I
Prerequisite - Must be identified as an AVID student through an application and interview process.
This course prepares identified students for college eligibility and success. Students receive instruction in writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading strategies in addition to note-taking and organizational skills that are necessary for academic success in all courses. AVID students must enroll in at least one honors course in addition to the AVID elective course.

AVID II
Prerequisite - Must be identified as an AVID student through an application and interview process.
This course prepares identified students for college eligibility and success. Students receive instruction in writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading strategies in addition to note-taking and organizational skills that are necessary for academic success in all courses. AVID students must enroll in at least one honors course in addition to the AVID elective course.

BROADCASTING 1 & 2
Prerequisite for Broadcasting 2 is Broadcasting 1
This course will be a hands-on experience using industry standard software to film, edit, and broadcast videos.This class is primarily responsible for the final product of our daily school announcements. Students may also create videos, as needed, for campus needs.

MULTI-SENSORY TEACHING APPROACH (MTA)
This course is designed to provide instructional support in phonological awareness, sound-symbol association, syllabication, orthography, morphology, syntax, reading comprehension, and reading fluency. This class is designed for students who are identified with dyslexia. Placement in this class is to be made by a campus 504 Committee or ARD Committee.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS
This course will allow students to explore a wide variety of career paths in 16 career clusters. The career development process is unique to each individual and evolves throughout one's life. Students will use decision- making and problem-solving skills for college and career planning. They will explore valid, reliable education and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities. Students integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions. This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and in the development of high school, college, and career achievement plans. Students will use interest inventory software and other tools to explore areas of personal interest.

H.O.P.E. (HELPING OUR PEERS EXCEL) Prerequisite – Student application and interview and or teacher recommendation
This course is a peer-tutoring/mentoring program that pairs 7th and 8th graders with students needing peer academic and social (friendship) support. Peer-tutors will assist these students one class period a day. In addition to helping the student with his/her class work, the peer-tutor will also develop a friendship with the student.

INVESTIGATING CAREERS IN ROBOTICS II
This course is a lab-based course and uses a hands-on approach to introduce the basic concepts of robotics. Students will focus on the construction and programming of autonomous mobile robots. The goal of this course is to provide middle school students with a foundation for success in high school and beyond as they learn more about robotics and engineering career fields. Students explore college and career planning, research labor market information, learn job-seeking skills, and create documents required for employment. Students learn a variety of employability skills, including: adaptability, problem solving, oral and written communications, collaboration and teamwork, creativity, responsibility, ethics, professionalism, and technology use.

INVESTIGATING CAREERS IN Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
This course focuses on planning, managing, and providing scientific research and technical services, including laboratory and testing services, and research and development services.

JOURNALISM 1 & 2
Prerequisite for Journalism 2 is Journalism 1
This course is an introduction to the role of mass media in today's society. Emphasis will focus on teaching the fundamentals of news writing, feature writing, editorial writing, and headline writing, as well as basic photography, broadcast news, reviews, polls and surveys.

PEER-ASSISTED LEARNING STRATEGIES (PALS)
Prerequisite – Student application and interview
This course provides an opportunity for selected 8th grade students to become peer helpers to other students inschool. Students are trained to be peer mentors and mediators. They are involved in school and community projects such as new student parties, promoting abstinence of drug and alcohol use, and publication of a newsletter informing others of their activities. The selection criteria include teacher recommendation, academic performance, and citizenship. Student applications are necessary at the end of 7th grade year.

READING ELECTIVE
This course is designed to improve advanced reading and discussion skills. Activities and topics will include drama, literary circles, genre studies, interdisciplinary projects, nonfiction, poetry, and oral presentations. Writing will be integrated in conjunction with projects planned by the reading teacher. Students enter this course upon teacher/administrator recommendation.
Note: A student who has or is at-risk for dyslexia or a related reading difficulty may be eligible to participate in a middle school MTA elective. Students in MTA receive instructional support in reading fluency, comprehension, vocabulary and academic writing. Study skills, thinking skills, and test-taking strategies are also offered. Please see the counselor for additional information.

SPANISH 1
High School Credit: 1
This course is an introduction to the Spanish-speaking world, its language, and its people. Emphasis is placed on the early acquisition of spoken language while developing listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. Grammar skills are introduced through both oral and written expression. This course is intended for students who are at or above grade level skills in the areas of oral comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Students may purchase a Spanish/English dictionary.
Successful completion of this course results in one year of high school Spanish credit. The grade earned for this course will be posted on the high school transcript and will be included in the calculation of the student's high school grade point average per Board Policy EIC(Local).

TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS II
This course will allow students to participate in research, critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making, digital citizenship, and technology operations and concepts. Through the study of technology applications, students make informed decisions by understanding current and emerging technologies, appropriate digital tools, and personal learning networks. As competent researchers and responsible digital citizens, students use creative thinking to solve problems while developing career and college readiness skills.

YEARBOOK 1 & 2
Prerequisite - Application required. Yearbook 2 requires Yearbook 1
This course is an elective, two-semester course where students will publish a yearbook for the school. Students will learn skills in planning, photography, word processing, page layout, graphic design, writing, and marketing. Interested students must apply in the spring semester.

8th Grade Fine Arts

Note: Some electives may not be offered at all campuses. The student choice sheet will reflect which courses are offered at each middle school campus.

Fine Arts classes require participation in events and practices outside the normal school day; on those occasions, parents would be responsible for transportation. Contests are scheduled with other schools located inside and outside the district. Transportation may be provided for competitive events outside the district. A fee may be required for Fine Arts classes.

At the end of any nine-week grading period, a student who receives a grade below 70 in any class not identified for no-pass, no-play exemption may not participate in competitive Fine Arts events for at least three school weeks. The student regains eligibility when the student has earned a passing grade of 70 or above in all classes and completed the three school weeks of ineligibility.
Elective courses cannot be duplicated between 7th and 8th grade. For example: if you take Art I in 7th grade, you cannot take Art I in 8th grade.

VISUAL ART:
8th GRADE VISUAL ART I
Prerequisite: None
In this introductory art course, students will embark on a creative journey, exploring the basics of art through hands-on projects and engaging activities. They will learn to express themselves while discovering the elements of art and principles of design. Through drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and other media, students will develop their artistic skills and build confidence in their abilities. Along the way, they'll be introduced to a variety of artists, sparking their imagination and deepening their appreciation for the visual arts. Events outside the school day may be required. Supplies and equipment fees apply.

8th GRADE VISUAL ART II
Prerequisite: Visual Art I
This art course will continue to explore the fundamental concepts of art and visual literacy skills using critical thinking, imagination, and the senses to observe and explore the world by learning about, understanding, and applying the elements of art, principles of design, and expressive qualities. Students will learn studio practices to develop their ideas into original artworks using a variety of media with appropriate skills. Events outside the school day may be required. Supplies and equipment fees apply.

8th GRADE VISUAL ART II ADVANCED
Prerequisite: Visual Art I, portfolio review, and teacher approval
This art course will explore advanced concepts of art and visual literacy skills using critical thinking, imagination, and the senses to observe and explore the world by learning about, understanding, and applying the elements of art, principles of design, and expressive qualities. Students will learn studio practices to develop their ideas into original artworks using a variety of media with appropriate skills. Events outside the school day may be required. Supplies and equipment fees apply.

BAND
Prerequisite: Audition Required
Classes: Varsity Band, Non-Varsity Band, Sub Non-Varsity Band A, B, C, etc.
This course is a continuation of the previous year(s) of Band. Students will continue to develop their musical understanding through continued description and analysis of musical sounds and through demonstration of musical artistry while performing a varied repertoire of music on various instruments, individually and in groups. Students are expected to sight-read music, interpret music symbols and terms, and relate music to history, society, and culture. Preparation for and participation in various performances and competitions are emphasized. Students must meet UIL eligibility requirements to perform at contests and other public events. Band may require practice outside of the school day, and (on such occasions) parents will be responsible for transportation. Uniform and equipment fees apply.

CHOIR
Prerequisite: Audition Required
Classes: Advanced Men, Advanced Women, Advanced Mixed, Intermediate Men, Intermediate Women, Intermediate Mixed.
This course is a continuation of the previous year(s) of Choir. Students will continue to develop their musical understanding through continued description and analysis of musical sounds and through demonstration of musical artistry while performing a varied repertoire of music, individually and in groups. Students are expected to sight-read music, interpret music symbols and terms, and relate music to history, society, and culture. Preparation for and participation in various performances and competitions are emphasized. Students must meet UIL eligibility requirements to perform at contests and other public events. Choir may require practice outside of the school day, and (on such occasions) parents will be responsible for transportation. Uniform and equipment fees apply.

ORCHESTRA
Prerequisite: Audition Required
Classes: Varsity Orchestra, Non-Varsity Orchestra, Sub Non-Varsity Orchestra A, B, C, etc.
This course is a continuation of the previous year(s) of Orchestra. Students will continue to develop their musical understanding through continued description and analysis of musical sounds and through demonstration of musical artistry while performing a varied repertoire of music, individually and in groups, on various string instruments. Students are expected to sight-read music, interpret music symbols and terms, and relate music to history, society, and culture. Preparation for and participation in various performances and competitions are emphasized. Students must meet UIL eligibility requirements to perform at contests and other public events. Band may require practice outside of the school day, and (on such occasions) parents will be responsible for transportation. Uniform and equipment fees apply.

DRILL TEAM
Prerequisite – Tryout Required
This class meets during the school day and consists of conditioning activities, skill development in several drill team and dance techniques, and specific preparations for dance competitions and game performances. Drill Teams participate in dance competitions, summer camps, pep rallies, games, and community events. Students gain membership through tryouts held during the spring semester of the previous school year. Drill Team may require practice outside the normal school day. See the Rockwall ISD Drill Team Handbook for details on tryouts and team requirements.

8th GRADE THEATRE I
Prerequisite: None
This is an entry level performance based course that incorporates an introduction to theatre, the study of theatre history, the role of an actor in interpreting and performing comedic and dramatic literature, performance theory and techniques, and an overview of the technical elements of theatrical production. Requirements include attendance at one live district theatrical performance and completing a written critique.

8th GRADE THEATRE II
Prerequisite: Theatre I and Teacher approval
This is a performance-centered course for students who have successfully completed a district Theatre course and intend to pursue more extensive study of theatrical elements. Required are advanced, individual and group projects through class and public performances. This may require outside rehearsals after school. Requirements also include attendance at one live district theatrical performance each semester, completing a written critique, and performing in one production per school year.

8th GRADE ADVANCED THEATRE
Prerequisite: Theatre I, audition, and Teacher approval
This is an audition-based, UIL production-centered course with a maximum of 24 students per UIL requirements. This course is an advanced fine arts course exploring the principles of production through practical experiences in acting, creative movement, improvisation, directing and technical theatre. Requirements of the class: UIL One-Act Play, attendance at Texas State Junior Thespian Festival, involvement in all productions, after-school rehearsals, and attendance of one live district theatrical performance per semester with written critiques.

TECHNICAL THEATRE I (8th Grade only)
Prerequisite: Theatre I and teacher approval
Technical Theatre is a course exploring all technical aspects of play production through project-centered assessments. Areas of study include Theatre safety, script analysis, concepts, theories of scenic design, lighting, sound, costumes, make-up, properties, etc. Other units of study include the responsibilities of technical production staff and the careers available. Requirements include attendance at one live district theatrical performance and completing a written critique for one performance per semester.

8th Grade Courses For Which Students May Earn High School Credit

Note: Successful completion of the following courses will result in one year of high school credit. The grade earned for this course will be posted on the high school transcript and will be included in the calculation of the student's high school grade point average per Board Policy EIC(Local).

ALGEBRA I HONORS
Prerequisite - Math 7 Honors or Math 8 EquivalentHigh School Credit: 1
This is an honors course for high school credit. Algebra I students will study linear, quadratic, and exponential functions and their related transformations, equations, and associated solutions. Honors students will extend these Algebra I concepts and skills so that they may be prepared for AP/IB math courses in the future. Studentsin this course will take the high school EOC Algebra 1 exam.

GEOMETRY HONORS
Prerequisite - Algebra I HonorsHigh School Credit: 1
This course meets the requirement for a second high school math credit needed for graduation. Geometry Honors builds on geometric and algebraic concepts students were exposed to from kindergarten through Algebra I. In Geometry Honors, students will begin to experience an inquiry-based learning format. Teachers will ask students to explore ideas and then create conjectures based on the patterns they observe. Geometry is a visual math course that focuses on shapes and their properties. In addition to its applications in construction, visual arts, technology, and design, geometry helps students develop logical reasoning skills and precise mathematical language. These skills will support student success in creating a strong argumentative essay in future English courses. Students generally choose On-Ramps Algebra II Honors (College Algebra) as the next math course. Algebra II Honors may be a suitable choice if the student is not ready for the rigor or responsibilities of the OnRamps Algebra II Honors (College Algebra) course. Strong math students may also choose IB Math in their junior/senior years. Students in this course will take the Grade 8 Math STAAR.

INTEGRATED PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY (SAGE/IPC HONORS)
Prerequisite - Science 7 Honors (Compacted)High School Credit: 1
Students in this course will take the Grade 8 Science STAAR
This course is the second of two linked courses that compact the curriculum of 7th and 8th grade Science along with the high school course Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC). As the concepts are taught, they will be differentiated to enable students to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate scientific processes and skills and will prepare students for the rigor of high school advanced academic courses and should be taken by those studentspreparing for a science-related career. Parents and students must sign an acknowledgment of understanding of the program before students are enrolled. Information regarding the rigor of the honors course can be obtained from the counselor. This is the science course for those 8th-grade students who are concurrently enrolled in Algebra I Honors or higher math.

SPANISH
High School Credit: 1
This course is an introduction to the Spanish-speaking world, its language, and its people. Emphasis is placed on the early acquisition of spoken language while developing listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. Grammar skills are introduced through both oral and written expression. This course is intended for students who are at or above grade level skills in the areas of oral comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Students may purchase a Spanish/English dictionary.

Planning Your High School Program

The purpose of this guide is to assist students as they plan their academic future. A variety of counseling services are offered at all schools. Counselors work with students, parents, and teachers to select appropriate courses for graduation and provide services throughout the year. Catalogs, handbooks, and internet resources are available for students seeking post-secondary educational opportunities. These opportunities include two and four year colleges and universities, technical schools, and the U.S. Armed Forces. Financial aid resources and workshops are also available. Each high school has a College and Career Resource Center to help students with their college and career exploration.

For more information, please contact the appropriate school counseling center:

Rockwall High School	469.698.7207
Rockwall Heath High School	469.698.2670
Dr. Gene Burton College and Career Academy	469-698-0660

College and Career Ready: Quick Tips

Start Early!

Build academic skills through challenging courses.

Please see your counselor for more information.

- Stay in touch with your school counselor.
- Collaborate with family, teachers, counselors, and mentors for advice and support.
- Review the Four-Year College and Career Readiness Plan in this guide.
- Ask lots of questions.
- Explore your interests through:
  - Interest inventories
  - Endorsement pathways
  - Job shadowing
  - Conversation with adults about their jobs



College, Career, & Military Readiness

College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) is how Rockwall ISD is preparing students for their future. There are many paths of success and we want to ensure we are meeting the unique needs of our students. During high school a student should meet at least one of the following CCMR indicators to show post-secondary readiness.

Test Requirements for Both College and Career Readiness Must have college ready scores for one test or a combination of tests and/or college prep courses			
TSIA2*	**SAT**	**ACT**	
LAR – 945	eading & Writing – 480	hrough February 14, 2023	n & After February 15, 2023
ssay – 5	lath – 530	nglish – 19	nglish & Reading -
lath – 950		lath – 19	ombined score 40
		omposite – 23	lath - 22
inimum scores to be considered college ready for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Students who do not meet college ready on the TSIA2 may be considered college ready with diagnostic scores: ELAR: 5, MATH: 6			

College Readiness			
College Prep	**Dual Credit**	**Advanced Placement (AP)/ International Baccalaureate (IB)**	**OnRamps**
College Prep English and College Prep Math Or College Bridge	3 credit hours in English or Math or 9 credit hours in any other course	Score 3 on AP exam Score 4 on IB exam	Qualify for college credit in an OnRamps course

Career Readiness		
Industry-Based Certification (IBC)	**Special Education**	**Military**
Complete a CTE Program of Study and earn a certification	Graduate with an advanced degree plan or Graduate with an IEP and workforce-readiness	Complete a DD4 form showing they have enlisted in the US Armed Forces

9th Grade Checklist

Freshman year, you will want to find out all of the things your school has to offer, become involved in activities, create your goals, and get off to the right start. We are here to help.

Fall	**Get involved** Extracurricular activities (both school and non-school sponsored) are an important part of high school. Make the effort to get involved with groups, clubs, or teams that interest you. These activities are fun, make you a well- rounded student, and help create your resume of experiences for postsecondary applications. A complete list of clubs and organizations can be found on the school websites. **Make the grade** Get off to a good start with your grades because they will impact your grade point average (GPA) and class rank. Although college seems like a long way off right now, grades really do count toward college admissions and scholarships. At this stage in the game, you are laying the foundation for your high school career. Freshman year is a time to establish your academic and extracurricular credentials. You should also begin to explore options for your career or further education.
Winter	**Meet your counselor** Your counselor is ready and willing to help you make sense of your college and career options. As soon as you can,set up a meeting to talk about your plans for high school and the future. **Explore your interests and possible careers** Discuss your skills and interests with your school counselor and take advantage of numerous Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities at your school and at Dr. Gene Burton College and Career Academy.
Spring/Summer	**Build your credentials** Keep track of academic and extracurricular awards, community service achievements, and anything else you participate in so it will be easier to remember later. It will come in handy when you want to highlight your accomplishments—such as when you are filling out college applications or creating a resume. **Start learning about colleges and careers** Look at the college and career information available in your counselor's office, school, and public libraries. Use the internet to check out college and career websites. You may even want to start a list of colleges that might interest you. **College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR)** Check with counselor that earning CCMR is a part of your four-year plan. **Make summer count** There are plenty of ways to have fun and build your credentials during the summer such as volunteering, getting a job, or signing up for an enrichment program.

Rockwall ISD Graduation Plan

The goal of Rockwall ISD is that all students will graduate on the Distinguished Level of Achievement with Endorsement graduation plan and that all students will be college, career ready or military ready.

	Foundation High School Program with Endorsement or Distinguished Achievement with Endorsement (26 credits)	**Foundation High School Program (22 credits)** *(may only be selected at the conclusion of the 10th grade year and with administrator approval)*
English Language Arts	**4 Credits** • English I • English II • English III • Advanced English course	**4 Credits** • English I • English II • English III • Advanced English course
Mathematics	**4 Credits** • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II* • Advanced math course *(If college and career readiness is not demonstrated, a college preparatory math may be assigned)*	**3 Credits** • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II (recommended)
Science	**4 Credits** • Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC)* ○ Should be taken concurrently with Algebra I. • Biology • Two additional advanced science courses (*Chemistry and/or Physics required for some Programs of Study*)	**3 Credits** • Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC)* • Biology • Advanced science course
Social Studies	**3 Credits** • World Geography and/or World History • US History • Government/Economics (.5 credit each)	**3 Credits** • World Geography and/or World History • US History • Government/Economics (.5 credit each)
Physical Education	**1 Credit**	**1 Credit**
Languages Other Than English (LOTE)	**2 Credits from the same language**	**2 Credits from the same language**
Fine Arts	**1 Credit**	**1 Credit**
Electives	**7 Credits** *(Includes the credit requirements of the student's declared endorsement)*	**5 Elective Credits**
Total Credits	**26**	**22**

To earn an endorsement, a student must earn 26 credits including a 4th credit in math and a 4th credit in science.

Algebra II is required for Distinguished Achievement and for some endorsements.

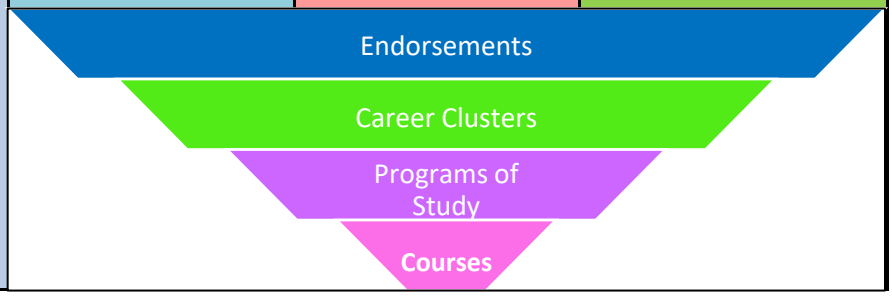
**Required or an approved substitute course*

Glossary of High School Terms	
American College Testing Program (ACT Program)	College readiness program which serves as an entrance requirement for many colleges and universities.
Advanced Placement (AP)	College level courses taught in high school.
Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD)	A child's eligibility for special education services and most of the major decisions about a child's special education program are made by the ARD Committee.
Credit	Unit earned upon successful completion of a high school course.
CTE	Career and Technical Education.
Dual Credit	A course taken in high school that receives both high school and college credit.
Elective course	Non-required course that is chosen based on the interest of the student.
End Of Course Tests (EOC Tests)	Tests administered at the end of the following high school courses: Algebra I, English I, Biology, English II, and U.S. History.
Extracurricular activities	Activities and/or programs that may meet outside of the regular school day.
Grade Point Average (GPA)	Average computed based on number of courses taken and grades earned in those courses.
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Academically rigorous program focused on international mindedness for students in grades 11 and 12.
Program of Study	Sequence of courses in a specific area such as Arts, STEM, or Business and Industry that leads to an endorsement.
Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)	Practice test for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) used to qualify for National Merit Scholarship, when taken as an 11th grader.
Required Courses	Courses that must be taken to fulfill graduation requirements.
Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)	College readiness exam which serves as an entrance requirement for many colleges and universities.
Section 504	A part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that prohibits discrimination based upon disability.
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.
Transcript	A report of all high school courses taken by the student and the grades received in each course. Also included on the transcript is the student's GPA, endorsements earned, and other earned awards such as distinguished achievement and performance acknowledgements.

Rockwall ISD Endorsements

Rockwall ISD offers all five Texas Education Agency approved endorsements for our students. Students may choose to earn more than one endorsement. Please read through the information below when planning your student's endorsements.

Arts & Humanities	Business & Industry	Multidisciplinary	Public Service	STEM
The Arts and Humanities endorsement offers students an opportunity to study ancient and modern literature, history, language and culture. Students can earn this endorsement by doing one of the following: **Social Studies:** Students earn five credits **Foreign Language:** Students take four levels of the same foreign language OR Students take two levels of one foreign language and two levels of a different foreign language for a total of four credits **Fine Arts:** Students earn four credits in the same fine arts area OR Students take two levels of one fine arts area and two levels in a different fine arts area for a total of four credits	The Business and Industry endorsement incorporates a large number of career paths. **AAVTC:** Animation Commercial Photography Fashion Design Graphic Design Video Game Design Audio/Video Production **Agricultural, Food, and Natural Resources:** Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems Floral Design Veterinary Medicine/ Animal Science **Architecture and Construction:** Architecture HVAC **Business, Marketing, and Financial Services:** Accounting and Finance Business Management Marketing Sales & Entrepreneurship Real Estate **Drone (Unmanned Vehicle)** **Engineering Foundations** **Hospitality and Tourism:** Culinary Arts **Information Technology:** Cybersecurity Programming and Software Development **Manufacturing:** Robotics & Automation Technology Welding Technology **Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics:** Automotive Technology	Students may earn a Multidisciplinary endorsement by completing requirements from among the following options: **Four by Four (4x4):** Students take four courses in each of the four content areas: Four English credits to include English IV Four math credits Four science credits to include Biology and Chemistry or IPC Four social studies credits **Advanced Courses:** Students earn a total of four credits from Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Dual Credit (DC), OnRamps (UT), or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in English, math, science, social studies, foreign language, or Fine Arts **Career & Technical Education:** Students earn four credits of advanced courses that prepare them to enter the workforce or postsecondary education without remediation from within one endorsement area or among endorsement areas not in a coherent sequence	The Public Service endorsement offers courses directly related to the public services field. **Education & Training:** Teaching and Training **Health Science:** Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Pharmacy Technician Medical Internship Dental Assistant Patient Care Technician **JROTC** **Law and Public Service:** Law Enforcement	The STEM endorsement offers courses related to science, technology, engineering and advanced math. **Math:** Students take Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and two of the following courses for which Algebra II is a pre-requisite: Advanced Algebra Precalculus Precalculus Pre-AP AP Calculus AB or BC College Statistics IB Math **Science:** Students take Biology, Chemistry, Physics (or Physics for Engineering), and two of the following courses: Aquatic Science Earth and Space Science AP Science courses IB Science courses CTE courses which confer science credit



To earn an endorsement in Business & Industry or Public Service a student must take four or more Career & Technical Education (CTE) credits consisting of at least two courses in the same Program of Study that lead to a final course in the program. At least one course must be an advanced CTE course (11th or 12th grade). To earn an endorsement in STEM a student must take four or more credits in a STEM Program of Study. Students should aim to be a completer within one Program of Study. A completer is a student who completes, passes, and receives credit for three or more CTE courses for at least four or more credits (course selection must include at least one course listed in the third or fourth sequence of courses).

Middle School Students Preparing for College and Careers	
Friendly Reminders for our Students	• Set goals for middle school. • Take the most challenging courses. • Explore interests in elective courses. • Take an interest inventory. • Ask questions and participate in class. • Ask for help. • Keep a student planner or agenda (paper or electronic). • Do your homework. • Get involved in school and community activities. • Speak with adults, such as your teacher, school counselor or librarian, relatives, or family friends, who you think have interesting jobs. Ask them, "What do you like about your job?" and "What education did you need for your job?"
Friendly Reminders for our Parents	• Use *FAFSA4caster* to find out how much federal student aid your child might receive. This information will help you plan ahead. • Continue saving for your child's college education. If you have not opened a savings account, learn about the tax advantages of saving and find a link to a clearinghouse of state college savings plans. • Talk to your child about his or her interests and help match those interests with a college major and career. • Help your child develop good study habits, such as studying at the same time and place every day and having the necessary materials to complete assignments. Help your child learn and use organizational skills. • Stay in contact with your child's teachers and counselor so that they can let you know about any changes in your child's behavior or schoolwork.

.

It is the policy of Rockwall ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap in its vocational programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; as amended and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Rockwall ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and Career & Technical Education programs.

Es la norma de Rockwall ISD de no discriminar en base a la raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, discapacidad en sus programas vocacionales, en los servicios, ni en las actividades como lo requiere la enmienda de Título VI del Acta Civil de Derechos de 1964; el Título IX de las Enmiendas de la Educación de 1972; y la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973. Rockwall ISD tomará los pasos necesarios para asegurar que la falta de habilidades en el idioma inglés no será una barrera para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y de carrera & educación técnica